

HOUSE BILL 2218  
By Buck

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,  
relative to benefits provided to illegal immigrants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, is amended by inserting the following  
as a new section in a new chapter thereto:

(a) No state agency or state-affiliated entity, or local governmental entity that receives state funds, shall provide any public indigency benefits to persons eighteen (18) years of age or older who are immigrants who are not legally documented immigrants to the United States, unless the state, state-affiliated entity, or local governmental entity that receives state funds is required by the federal or state constitutions or other controlling federal law to provide such a benefit.

(b) As used in this section, "public indigency benefits" means driver licenses and certificates as well as any benefits that are provided specifically to indigent persons, including but not limited to post-secondary educational grants, scholarships, or other reductions of fees or tuition, public health benefits provided by the department of health or provided through the bureau of TennCare, food stamps and other financial benefits provided by the department of human services, and public housing benefits. Public indigency benefits does not mean those benefits that are provided primarily for the benefit of the public at large, including but not limited to the protection of law enforcement personnel, fire safety personnel, or emergency medical personnel, or the use of public buildings, parks, and other places of general public accommodation.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.

